



INSTRUCTION No. (2) of 2007

Compliance with License Obligations

Effective Date: 12th July 2007

This document contains proprietary information and, except with written permission of the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA), such information shall not be published or disclosed to others, or used for any purpose and the document shall not be copied in whole or in part.

COPYRIGHT © 2007 · TELECOMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY · TRA · ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA)
P O Box 26662
Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE)
Tel: +971 2 6212222 Fax +971 2 6212227
www.tra.ae

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 On 12th February 2006, the Supreme Committee granted to the Emirates Integrated Telecommunications Company PJSC (“EITC”) a License (“the License”) to install, operate and manage a Public Telecommunication Network and provide Telecommunication Services. Included in the License is an obligation to commercially offer national and international call services via Carrier Selection Interconnection Service, in accordance with a specific Rollout Schedule.

1.2 Taken together, Article 2.2 and Appendix 1 of the License define the scope of the rollout obligations. Measured by percentage of population, these are:

	Effective Date plus 12 months	Effective Date plus 18 months	Effective Date plus 24 Months	Effective Date plus 30 months
National and International Calls via Carrier Selection	40%	70%	75%	100%

1.3 The Effective Date mentioned above was the date of the grant of the License, in this case 12th February 2006. Therefore, EITC was required to meet its first set of rollout obligations twelve (12) months later, by 12th February 2007.

1.4 On 8th February 2007, EITC made a request of the Supreme Committee for an extension of the time specified for the rollout obligations.

1.5 On 14th March 2007, the Supreme Committee issued Resolution No. (1) of 2007 approving EITC’s request and granting the TRA the authority to, “...specify the new term and any respective amendment thereto.”

1.6 On 11th April 2007, the TRA issued Instruction No. (1) of 2007 extending the Rollout Schedule by five (5) months, thereby delaying the first scheduled deadline in the series of target dates to 12th July 2007.

1.7 Subsequently, EITC sent a letter dated 26th June 2007 to the TRA indicating that, “...we [EITC] will not be in a position to meet our License obligation of CS rollout on the 12th of July 2007.”

- 1.8 On 10th July 2007, EITC sent letter TRA/RA/07/382 to the TRA, requesting that the TRA grant an additional extension of EITC's obligation to provide national and international call services via Carrier Selection Interconnection Service.

2. ANALYSIS

- 2.1 In this instance, the TRA notes that EITC has had seventeen (17) months to provide national and international call services via Carrier Selection Interconnection Service, and that this is more than sufficient time.
- 2.2 The TRA is of the opinion that EITC has failed to utilize reasonable endeavors to launch national and international calls via Carrier Selection Interconnection Service. For example, EITC did not fully utilize, in all cases, the appropriate escalation mechanisms outlined in the Interconnection Agreement nor did EITC refer the matter to the TRA in accordance with the TRA's Interconnection Dispute Resolution Procedures.

3. INSTRUCTIONS

- 3.1 The obligations put in place by this Instruction supersede the corresponding obligations set out in Appendix 1 of EITC's License and amended via the TRA's Instruction No. (1) of 2007 issued 11th April 2007.
- 3.2 EITC is now instructed to commercially offer national and international call services via Carrier Selection Interconnection as follows:
 - (a) Abu Dhabi urban and Dubai urban by 26th July 2007;
 - (b) Sharjah urban and Al Ain urban by 30th August 2007;
 - (c) Ras Al Khaimah urban, Fujairah urban, Ajman urban and Umm Al Qaiwain urban by 30th September 2007;
 - (d) Abu Dhabi rural by 31st October 2007; and
 - (e) the remainder of the UAE by 29th November 2007.

The TRA encourages EITC to expedite this schedule in order that UAE consumers may realize the benefits of competition.

- 3.3 EITC is instructed to notify the TRA by each date stipulated above, or earlier, of its compliance with the TRA's Instruction.

12th July 2007

Mohamed Nasser Al Ghanim
Director General and Board Member
General Authority for Regulating the Telecommunications Sector